

Crandall (loc. cit.) citing Zuckerman (loc. cit.) reported that the 27 births at the London Zoological Garden during 1839 to 1937 occurred in every month except January. In India most births occur in April and in London Zoo births have been distributed throughout the year (Asdell, loc. cit.). Panther breeds all the year round (Prater, loc. cit.); Walker *et al.*, (loc. cit.).

12. Common Mongoose (*Herpestes edwardsi*)

Two litters were born, one in April and the other in July.

This has no regular season (Asdell, loc. cit.). It breeds all the year round (Prater, loc. cit.).

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5. THE GREY PARTRIDGE (*FRANCOLINUS PONDICERIANUS*) IN THE BOMBAY KONKAN

In Vol. 68 (1) page 267 we had listed the recovery of a Grey Partridge at Kalyan, Thana Dist. The Grey Partridge does not occur in the Bombay Konkan, below the ghats and the bird in question was one of twenty-eight illegally captured by a trapper in an undisclosed locality

and brought to Bombay for sale. The birds were confiscated from him by Mr. Humayun Abdulali, an Honorary Game Warden, and ringed and released by him at Kalyan.

BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,
BOMBAY,
October 2, 1971.

EDITORS

6. THE GENUS *CUCULUS*: TWO AMENDMENTS TO THE 'HANDBOOK OF THE BIRDS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN'

(With a text-figure)

The HANDBOOK OF THE BIRDS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN, volume 3 (hereafter referred to as the HANDBOOK) lists under the heading Himalayan Cuckoo only the nominate subspecies *Cuculus s. saturatus*, 'probably resident' along the Himalayas and in the hills of northeastern India. 'Museum diagnosis' is based on 16 specimens from Nepal and Sikkim, which have a wing length range of 172-192 mm, within the limits of nominate *saturatus* as set by Junge (1937)¹. Figures of 208-226 mm quoted in the FAUNA OF BRITISH INDIA, volume 4 (Baker 1927) are rejected², but several specimens from the Indian subcontinent recently examined by the author in the collections of the British and Leiden Museums do not conform with Junge's definition and it is intended to show that treatment of the species in the HANDBOOK should be amended.

These collections include 58 post-juvenile and adult Himalayan Cuckoos collected along the Himalayas, from Hazara on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border east to Assam and Manipur, and two identifiably lowland specimens, an adult male taken on 18 May at Sholapur, Bombay State (17°43'N, 75°56'E) and an adult female on 31 May at Fatehgarh, either M.P. (24°47'N, 77°00'E) or U.P. (27°22'N, 79°38'E)³. Dated specimens occur only between 14 March and 20 October, with a conspicuous gap during the winter period which is hardly in accord with 'probably resident' status, though forest cuckoos are elusive outside the calling season (March-August according to the HANDBOOK) and problems of collecting during this period may account for lack of specimens.

¹ Figures of 179-194 mm derived from skins in the BNHS collection by Humayun Abdulali (1971 *in litt.*) are also within Junge's range for the nominate subspecies.

² Since the maximum authenticated wing length recorded for the Himalayan Cuckoo is only 217 mm (Dementiev & Gladkov 1951; Leiden Museum collection) it is possible that Baker confused his material with the Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*.

³ The original labels read 'Sulapur' and 'Futtighur'. Sholapur and Fatehgarh were the only possible modern alternatives that could be found.